Inai Boku wa Hotarumachi ni Iru

"I Don't Exist in This Firefly City" chapter 8

by Tanaka Miho

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Chapter 8
Acquaintance・Friend・Stranger・Love

——I'M NOT GOING TO VISIT
YOUR WORLD ANYMORE.
ALL IT DOES
IS MAKE ME MISERABLE.

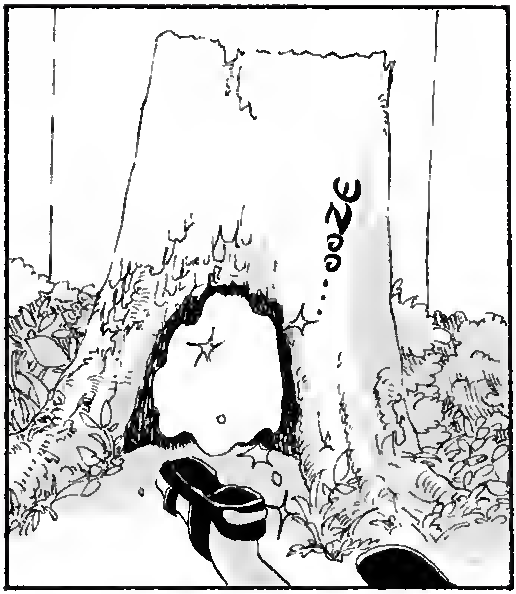
FUJISAKI TAKERU...?
TODAY'S THE CITY FESTIVAL, YOU KNOW?
NAKAGAWA AND A WHOLE BUNCH OF US ARE GOING.
HUH? OH...
SO WHAT'RE ALL YOU GUYS DOING?
UM, HI...
IT'S NAKAGAWA...
REALLY?
SURE-
YOU CAN COME TOO, IF YOU WANT.
THE FESTIVAL...
OH, GOT IT.

HE'S NOT A BAD GUY!
IT'LL BE FINE!
whisper
WE'LL INTRODUCE HIM TO EVERYONE
OK—
whisper
whisper
YOU THINK MANA AND THE REST WILL WANT SOME STRANGE KID ALONG?
...
MEET'CHA AT FIVE IN FRONT OF THE CITY MARKET!
Y-YEAH
....
Oh— ...

SWSH...
UM...
SEEYA AT FIVE
Y-YEAH
TH-
THAT'S RIGHT...
I'M NOT PART OF THEIR GROUP HERE...
I MUST BE ANNOYING THEM...
...THEIR GROUP..
YEAH...
HERE, I'M...
A STRANGER TO THEM...

THEY PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE INVITED ME TO COME
IF I HADN'T ASKED WHAT THEY WERE DOING,
IT ONLY MAKES ME
MISERABLE
LSH
Is that because the people he's normally close to
...SP
are so distant?

clench...
——Because they really aren't the same?

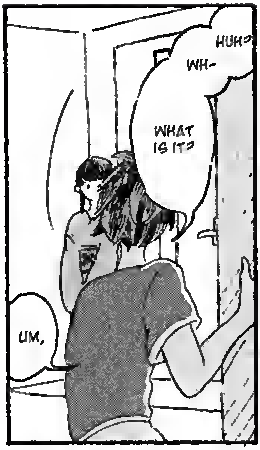

ぜぇ…

…What the?
ぜぇ…
chirp
ぜぇ…
ぜぇ…
!!!!

fzz
fzz
fzz
tic
tic
tic
zzz...

TAKERU
WELL GOOD MORNING, YOU! NAKAGAWA'S HERE!
HUH?
HEY,
WERE YOU ASLEEP?

HAVING MOM HERE IS SO AWKWARD...
LET'S GO OUTSIDE.
HUH?
SURE.


HUH?
WH-
WHAT IS IT?
UM,

WOW!

WH-
WHAT IS IT?
TODAY'S THE FESTIVAL, YOU KNOW?

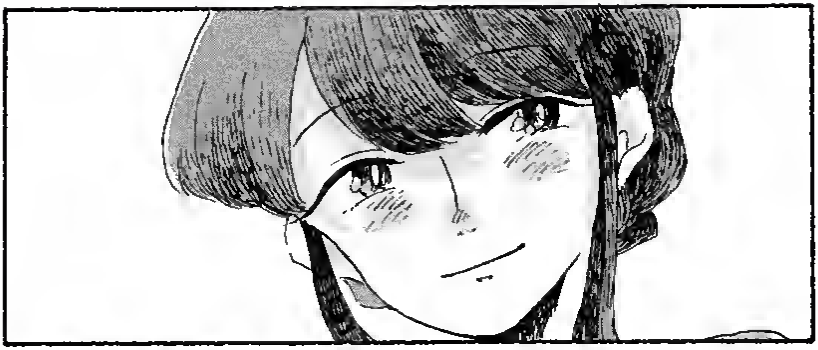
YEP!
EVERYONE'S GOING TOGETHER. WANT TO COME WITH, TAKERU?
OH.

SO THAT'S WHY YOU'RE IN A YUKATA.

REMEMBER WHEN MANA INVITED YOU TO THE POOL THE OTHER DAY?
...
SORRY
MEET'CHA AT FIVE IN FROUT OF THE CITY MARKET!
SHE'S STILL NOT BACK TO HER USUAL CHEERFUL SELF
BUT I COULD TELL SHE WAS FEELING BAD OVER IT
SHE TOLD ME YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T WANT PEOPLE FEELING SORRY FOR YOU SHE WAS SMILING ABOUT IT,
IT'S NOT
TAKERU,
...

DO YOU REALLY THINK
THAT WE'RE FEELING SORRY FOR YOU
THAT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S SAD?
EVEN ME
EVERY-ONE
...
IS JUST NOT THINKING ABOUT IT
-WELL

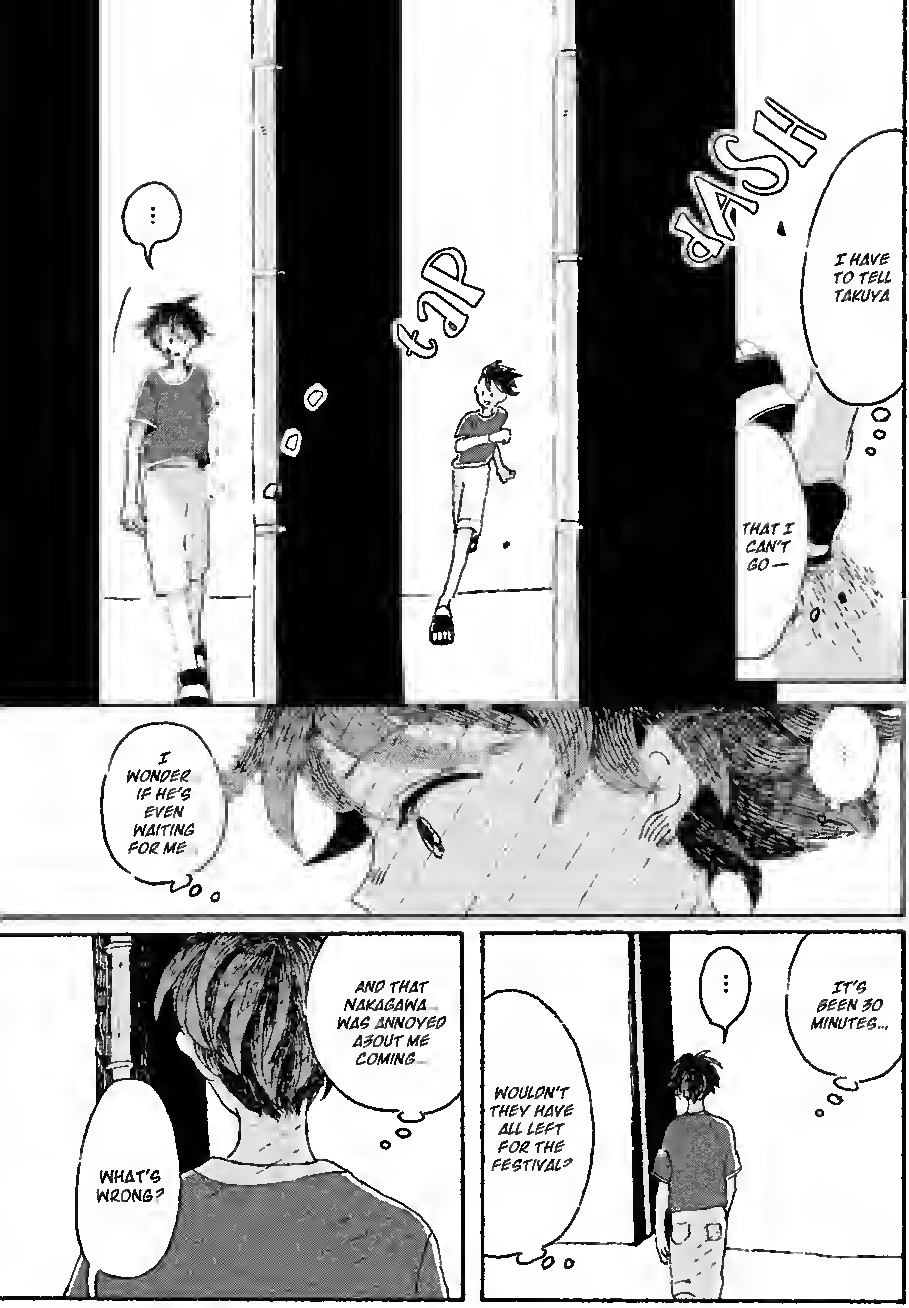
SO COME TO THE FESTIVAL WITH US
OK
MANA'S COMING TOO
AH!
OK, OK
SORRY
...



GIMMIE A SEC!
OK

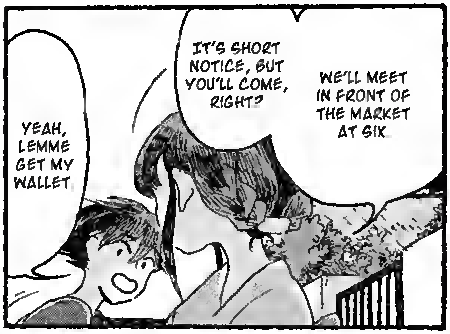
WHAT TIME IS IT NOW?
5:30

WHAT!?
HUH!?
5:30!?

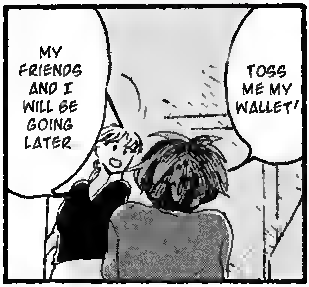

I HAVE TO TELL TAKUYA
DASH
THAT I CAN'T GO—
TAP
...
I WONDER IF HE'S EVEN WAITING FOR ME
IT'S BEEN 30 MINUTES...
...
WOULDN'T THEY HAVE ALL LEFT FOR THE FESTIVAL?
AND THAT NAKAGAWA... WAS ANNOYED ABOUT ME COMING...
WHAT'S WRONG?

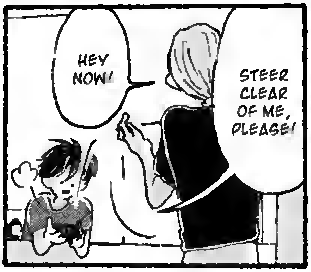
?
OK

NAH...
IT'S NOTHING

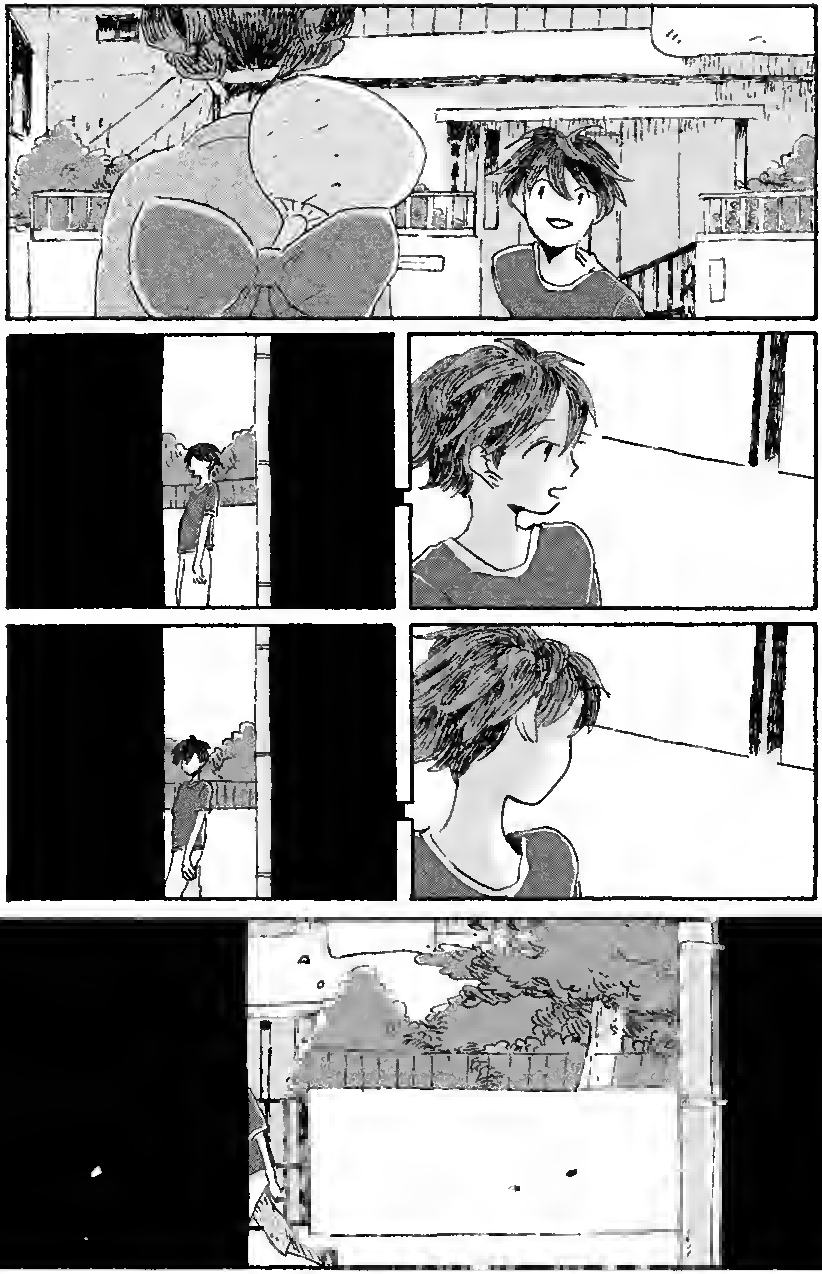

IT'S SHORT NOTICE, BUT YOU'LL COME, RIGHT?
WE'LL MEET IN FRONT OF THE MARKET AT SIX
YEAH, LEMME GET MY WALLET

SPENDING MONEY— YOU STILL HAVE THE CHANGE FROM THE MANGA MONEY I GAVE YOU BEFORE, RIGHT?
I'M OFF!
WAH!

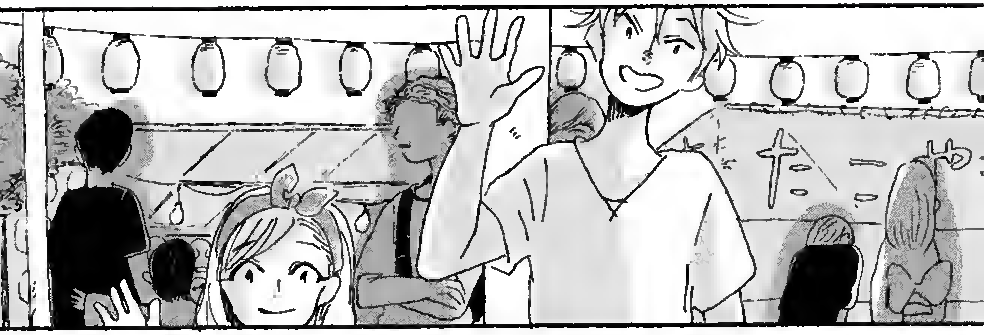

MY FRIENDS AND I WILL BE GOING LATER
TOSS ME MY WALLET!

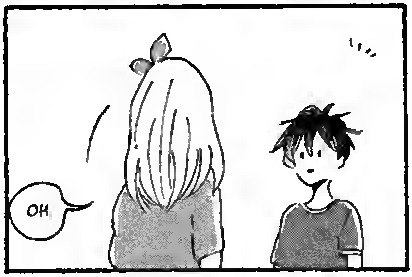

HEY NOW!
STEER CLEAR OF ME, PLEASE!

MOM! I'M GOING TO THE FESTIVAL WITH NAKAGAWA AND THE GUYS!



OVER HERE!




OH

WELL, I WAS JUST SITTING AROUND AT HOME
YOU GUYS ARE EARLY

YOU CAME
SORRY... ABOUT ALL THAT
OH...
wave
wave
...
LET'S GO
IT'S FINE! DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT

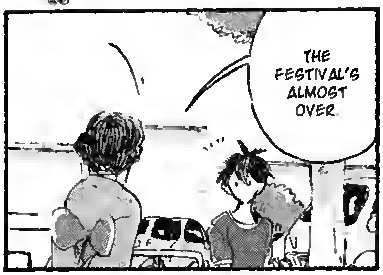
I feel guilty about Takuya inviting me to the festival.

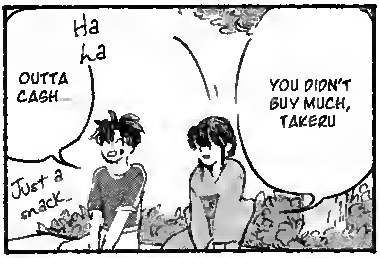
Sorry.
I'll go apologize to him tomorrow
I might have to explain about my world for that...
I wonder if he'll believe me...?

Still, being there with all my friends,
just chatting and laughing,
it felt really good.
—— It's something I hadn't felt in a long time.

Pang Pang

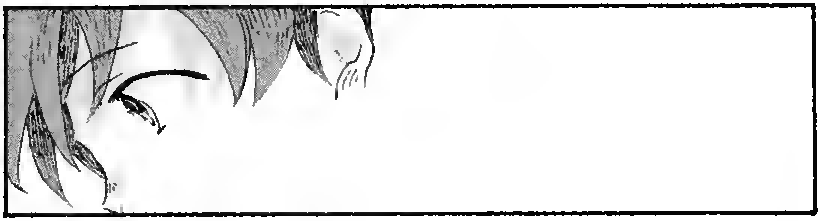
Hush Hush Hush Hush





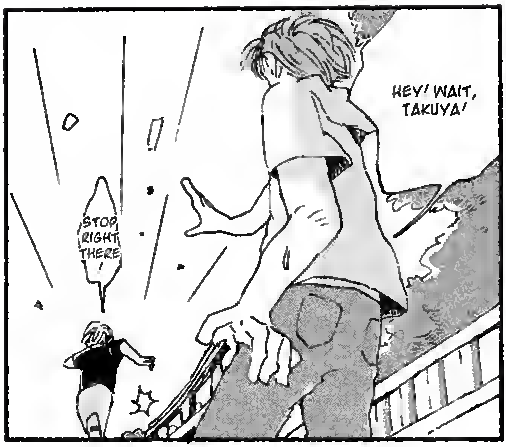
WHERE ARE THOSE TWO?
THEY'RE IN LINE TO BUY CHOCO-LATE-DIPPED BANANAS
IT'S STRANGE
WHAT?
OH...
TAKUYA'S THERE IN THE OTHER WORLD
BUT...
YEAH...
NOT HAVING TAKUYA HERE

I...
ALWAYS LOOKED FORWARD TO GOING WITH TAKUYA...

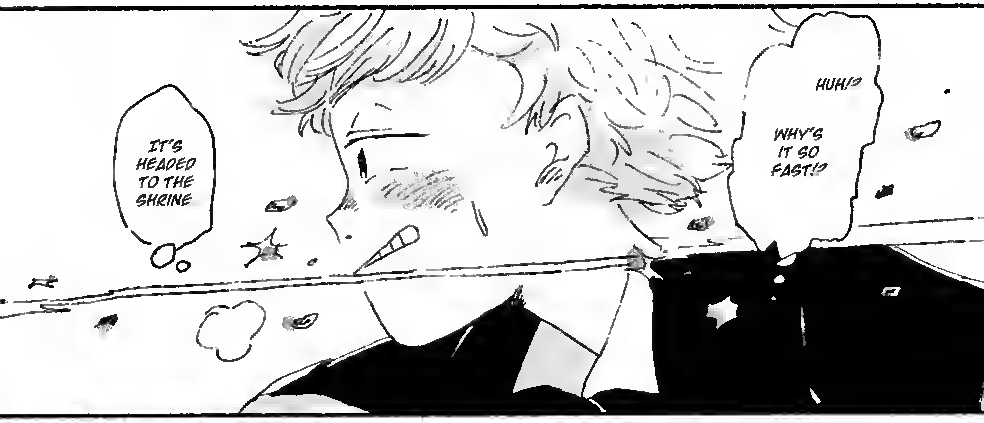


TAKUYA
IS GONE
HE'S GONE

...
YOU KNOW, I DON'T ACTUALLY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'VE GOT HIS NUMBER
SO TAKERU NEVER DID SHOW UP, HUH.
...
HE...
REALLY DIED...
A FIREFLY..?


HEY! WAIT, TAKUYA!
STOP RIGHT THERE!

WAIT, IS IT ONE OF MINE!?
BUT MINE WOULD'VE DIED OUT ALREADY!


IT'S HEADED TO THE SHRINE
HUH!?
WHY'S IT SO FAST!?

swsh
?
IT WENT IN THERE
...
two

Pop
!
……
……
THE SUN'S OUT…?